

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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The ruins of Fort Dumpling, on Conanicut Island, Rhode Island, about 1830, from a painting in oils by William G. Wall.

From original owned by the Museum Book Store, London.

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The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

Thomas Mount and the Flash Language

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

When the Reverend William Smith, rector of Trinity Church in Newport, Rhode Island, from 1790 to 1797, wrote the *Voluntary Confession of Thomas Mount*¹ he did more than to leave to posterity the account of the life and various misdemeanors of a rather clever rogue. His evident interest in the lives and deaths of criminals led him to the absorbing subject of the language which they used among themselves, primarily for the purpose of secrecy, and while he did not make an exhaustive search into the matter, he would appear to be the only person to mention the fact of its existence in early Rhode Island. The use of this language he attributed to Mount and his accom-

¹*The Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*, Vol. XX, p. 53. Thomas Mount was hanged for burglary at Little Rest (now Kingston) on May 27, 1791. Smith was also the compiler of other confessions and of a consoling handbook, "The Convict's Visitor; or, Penitential Offices Consisting of Prayers, Lessons and Meditations, with Suitable Devotions Before and at the Time of Execution."

plices; and published, in the last pages of the *Confession*, notes with reference to the Flash Company of London, its language and its spread among the Colonies.

Other than the meager information contained in these notes no account of this Flash Company has been traced, but it was presumably a somewhat loosely organized body of thieves and other vagabonds, requiring certain qualifications for membership and maintaining ritual and customs of a coarse, and at times, of blasphemous character.²

In one of the notes referred to, Smith states that "By the confession of Mount and Williams,³ it appears the Flash Company have spread themselves all over the continent, from Nova Scotia to the remotest parts of Georgia—that the principal seaport towns are their places of general rendezvous—and that the number of the Society at present, are from about 70 to 80, males and females. They have receivers in the principal towns of each State, who not only receive the stolen goods, but point out shops and houses for them to break into and plunder."

A further note gives the oath required for admission into the Company:

The Oath, at the admission of a Flat⁴ into the Flash Society.

The oldest Flash Cove⁵ taking the Flat by the hand, asks him if he desires to Join the Flash Company, The Flat answers. 'yes.' The Flash Cove (head man) bids him say thus:—I swear bythat to the Flash Company I will be true—never divulge their secrets, nor turn evidence against any of them—and if a brother is in distress, that I will hasten to relieve him, at the risk of my life and liberty—and if he suffers, endeavor to be revenged on the person or persons who were the means of bringing him to punishment.' After taking the above or similar

²This may be determined from the oath and from the examination of the numerous dictionaries and songs.

³Williams was tried at the same time as Mount but would appear to have escaped the gallows.

⁴Here meaning a novice or applicant, although usually, a fool, a silly person. *A New Canting Dictionary*, London, 1725.

⁵*Idem*. A man, a rogue.

oath, the *Flat* receives a *Pall*,⁶ i.e. a companion, and they two are sent out upon some expedition."

It is further explained that "Sometimes they swear by God, and sometimes by the Devil: when they use the name of God, they swear by the Old Cove, who knows all things; and when by the Devil, by the Cove of the Scarlet Ken."⁷

Concerning the origin of this rogue's language, which Smith refers to as *Flash*, and which as early as the fifteenth century was known in England as *Cant*,⁸ comparatively little has been written although a cause of considerable perplexity among the students of philology. It is without doubt of great antiquity, for the profession which it served is as old as man, but because of its secrecy and the lack of means of making it generally known to the public, its early history is clouded in obscurity.⁹

At the commencement of the fifteenth century, the Gypsies, after their slow migration of centuries from their home in India, began to penetrate into southwestern Europe. Here they moved rapidly and in less than thirty years were to be found in every important country save England, which they did not reach until about the year 1512. And with these Gypsy tribes came a new international language of beggars, thieves and worse. It would appear to have undoubtedly been originated by the Gypsies¹⁰ themselves for it contained many derivatives from the Sanskrit, brought from their old home lands, also enriched by words and phrases from the different countries through which they had wandered, even including ancient Hebrew and Greek. This new language would seem to have been soon adopted by the

⁶*Idem*. From the Gypsy, *pal*, a brother.

⁷*Idem*. A house.

⁸*Cant* is supposed to be derived from the Latin, *cantare*, to sing, and to refer to the whining, sing-song voice affected by mendicants. An amusing account in the *Spectator*, (No. 147) attributes its derivation from one Andrew Cant, a Scotch divine, who used a dialect in his sermons understandable to "none but his own Congregation, and not by all of them."

⁹The first book to contain a glossary of *Cant* in England was that written by Thomas Harman, entitled, *A Caveat or Warning for Common Cursetors, vulgarly called Vagabones*. London, 1566-67.

¹⁰J. C. Hotton, *The Slang Dictionary*, London, 1865. This is but one of many authorities that attribute this newer dialect to the Gypsy.

riff-raff of Europe, incorporating into it their own local jargon so that the *Argot* of France,¹¹ while essentially French, contained many words alike, and more similar, to the *Gergo* of Italy, the *Rothwalsch* of Germany or the *Cant* of England. It was a language of the forgotten word, the archaic, with a jumble of foreign tongues and was once well defined as "metaphor mixed with obsolete expression." It was not slang, for slang is new and attempts at aptness: this was old and attempted secrecy.

The term *Flash*,¹² a fairly common synonym of *Cant*, is of uncertain derivation. Isaac Taylor states that "In a wild district of Derbyshire, between Macclesfield and Buxton, there is a village called Flash surrounded by unenclosed ground. The squatters on these commons, with their gypsy habits, travelled about the neighborhood from fair to fair, using a slang dialect of their own. They were called 'Flashmen' and their dialect, 'Flash Talk.'"¹³ It is more generally believed, however, that the usual meaning attributed to the word *Flash*, i.e., concerning roguery and deception, is correct and that it does not refer to any one village as quoted above.

In the *Confession* Mount stated that he had never seen the Flash language in print, but that Williams had, both in London and in South Carolina. Smith thereupon proceeded to correct this omission by printing a one page glossary and seven songs, one of which is as follows:¹⁴

¹¹Made immortal by Francois Villon, one of whose ballads, *Tout aux Tavernes et aux Filles*, written in *argot*, was cleverly translated by W. E. Henley and entitled, *Villon's Straight Tip to all Cross Coves*.

¹²J. C. Hotton, *The Slang Dictionary*, p. 135. "The vulgar language was first termed *Flash* in the year 1718 by Hitchin, the author of 'The Regulator of Thieves, etc.'"

¹³Rev. Isaac Taylor, *Words and Places*, London, 1864, p. 471.

¹⁴The following short glossary may make this song the better understood:

Blowen, a girl.

Jorum of diddle, a bottle of gin.

Diving, picking pockets.

Pads, robs.

Dull-gowns-man, priest.

Peepers, eyes; to be hid, means blindfolded.

Tumbler, a cart.

Morris, to hang dangling in the air, to be executed.

*"A Song made by a Flash Cove the Evening
before his Execution"*

My blowen came here t'other night,
 She fetch'd us a jorum of diddle,
 To the prisoners it gave great delight,
 And we hopped it away to the fiddle.
 But our trade of diving doth fail,
 My blowen has chang'd habitation;
 For now she pads in the goal
 And laughs at the flats of the nation.
 But at length the dull-gowns-man comes in
 And tips me soft tales of repentence.
 When on him I do cast my brow
 I care not a fig for his sentence.
 By th' gullet I'll be ty'd very tight
 To-morrow: my blowen pray for us,
 My peepers will be hid from the light,
 The tumbler shoves off, so I *morris*."

The last song in the collection is entitled "Mount's Flash Song Upon Himself," which is not reprinted here as it is extremely doubtful that it is original. It appears to be an old song with the names of *Mount* and *New-York* substituted for another rascal and another city, and contains no definite allusion to any of Mount's exploits as recounted in the *Confession*.

Report on the Charges Against Jonathan Arnold

To the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island Historical Society:

The undersigned appointed to report upon the alleged treason of Jonathan Arnold, a delegate from Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, 1782 and 1783, begs leave to report as follows:

The accusation is made in Sidney S. Rider's Book Notes, volume 19, page 83. The substance of the article is as follows:

"This man, who was a representative, betrayed his country by communicating to the enemy the secret orders of General Washington in regard to the movements of the troops. It was for this that Arnold left Rhode Island for St. Johnsbury, Vermont, the town nearest the Canadian border. The Journal states, his grandson, General Richard Arnold, won fame during the Rebellion. The Journal forgets to state that Richard Arnold fought with the rebels. The Journal here again makes a serious blunder. General Richard Arnold was not a son of Governor L. H. Arnold, nor a grandson of Dr. Jonathon Arnold, but a son of Richard J. Arnold who dwelt on South Main Street and in Georgia."

The index of the Journals of Congress during Arnold's membership contains his name about fifty times. An examination of all the references does not show any charges of any kind against him. I have not found any charge of treason made against him by anyone except Mr. Rider.

In January, 1783, General Washington presented a report of a Continental officer in regard to Vermont matters, in which Jonathan Arnold's name appears. In order to clearly understand the situation, it is necessary to refer briefly to Vermont affairs.

The Green Mountain region of Vermont was largely settled by New Englanders who purchased their land from the Governor of New Hampshire. New York claimed the same territory and its Governor granted land patents to certain individuals for the same land. The owners of the New York patents did not intend to settle on the land, but to lease it and receive revenue from tenants. After the settlers had cleared the forest and built homes, the New York owners of the patents made a demand of them for rent. The settlers refused to pay and the matter was referred to the New York courts who decided in favor of the owners of the patents. The settlers were vigorous and pugnacious, and were determined to protect their homes. They numbered about 20,000. New York was unable to enforce the decree of its courts.

At this time the controversy between the colonies and Great

Britain came to a head and the people of Vermont presented a petition to Congress, avowing adhesion to the Colonies and asking that the land dispute be postponed. Congress did not grant the request, but a few weeks before had passed a resolution advising communities not under a settled government to form one of their own. Vermont accordingly organized a state government, and applied for admission to the United States in 1781. This was refused and affairs in Vermont were in a chaotic condition until it was admitted to the Union in 1792. They had disputes with New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts and added to their troubles by fierce dissensions among themselves. One faction entered into negotiations with Canadian officials to create an independent political unit of the State of Vermont and the Province of Canada. This the Continental Government discovered and ordered the arrest of two citizens of Vermont, Col. Wells and Judge Knowlton, who were supposed to have communicated with the Canadian authorities. The report alluded to, was made by a Capt. Macomber, a Rhode Island officer, in the Continental service. He stated that a third party told him that a letter was written by Jonathan Arnold, a delegate from Rhode Island in Congress, in which the statement was made that Vermont affairs were not progressing satisfactorily, and for Wells and Knowlton to look out for themselves. Arnold denied emphatically that he had written any letter to the two men. If the charge was true, it was of such little importance, that it should be ignored. That the offense charged against the two Vermonters was not seriously considered is shown by the fact that no further attempts were made to arrest them and they remained unmolested in Vermont.

From an investigation from all material available, I am certain that no charge of treason against Jonathan Arnold has the slightest justification. On the contrary, other facts show him to have been a patriotic American who rendered important services to the cause of American Independence.

Mr. Rider made other errors in the quoted article which do not bear upon the question at issue, but which deserve attention. Arnold went to Vermont because that state gave him 3600 acres

of land on which he settled, he lived there the rest of his days, and he was a member of the Governor's Council and Chief Justice of the County Court. I can find no evidence that he intended to cross the Canadian border. General Richard Arnold was not a rebel. The report of the Adjutant General of Rhode Island in 1865 gives the names of Rhode Island officers in the Union Army. Richard Arnold is on the list with the following notation: Capt. of Artillery in 1861, Brig. Gen. of Volunteers 1862, Brevet Major General 1865.

The genealogy published in the *Journal* and questioned by Mr. Rider is the same contained in Appleton's *American Encyclopedia of Biography*. After Mr. Rider wrote his article additional information about Dr. Arnold and Vermont history was published. It is possible, if that knowledge had been possessed by him, his ideas would have been different.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES DEAN KIMBALL.

Providence, R. I., April 20, 1929.

The Second Commencement at Brown University

Contributed by

ROBERT FRANCIS SEYBOLT
University of Illinois

"On Thursday the 7th Instant," September, 1769, "was celebrated at Warren, the first Commencement in the College of this Colony."¹ The events of the celebration at Warren have been described in an earlier number of this journal.² A contemporary account of the second commencement, held at Providence, was published in the following news item in the *Massa-*

¹*Boston Post Boy and Advertiser*, Sept. 18, 1769.

²Guild, Reuben A. The first commencement of Rhode Island College, in *Coll. R. I. Hist. Soc.*, VII (1885), 267-298.

chusetts Gazette and Boston Post Boy and Advertiser, Sept. 24, 1770:

PROVIDENCE, September 8

ON Wednesday was celebrated here the second Commencement in Rhode-Island College.³ The Parties concerned met at the Court-House about Ten o' Clock, from whence they proceeded to the Rev. Joseph Snow's Meeting-House, in the following Order: First, the Grammer-Scholars, then the under Classes, the Candidates for Degrees, the Bachelors, the Trustees of the College, the Fellows, the Chancellor and Governor of the Colony and lastly the President. When they were seated, the President introduced the Business of the Day by Prayer; then followed the salutatory Oration, in Latin, by Mr. Dennis—and a forsenic Dispute, with which ended the Exercises of the Forenoon.

Those of the Afternoon began with an intermediate Oration on Catholicism, pronounced by Mr. Foster; then followed a syllogistic Disputation, in Latin, wherein Mr. Foster was Respondent, and Messieurs Nash, Read and Dennis, Opponents. After this the Degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on Messieurs John Dennis, Theodore Foster, Samuel Nash, and Seth Read; and the Degree of Master on the Rev. Isaac Eaton, Messieurs William Bowne, Benjamin West, David Williams, Joseph Brown, and Abel Evans; also on the Rev. Messieurs Hugh Evans, Daniel Turner, Samuel James, Benjamin Wallin, John Reynolds, and Isaac Woodman. To which succeeded a valedictory Oration, by Mr. Read; and then a Charge to the Graduates.

The Business of the Day being concluded, and before the Assembly broke up, a Piece from Homer was pronounced by Master Billy Edwards, one of the Grammer School Boys, not nine Years old. This as well as the other Performances, gained Applause from a polite and crowded Audience, and afforded Pleasure to the Friends of the Institution. But what greatly added to their Satisfaction was an Opportunity of observing

³Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1770.

the Forwardness of the College Edifice, the first Stone of which was laid not longer since than the latter End of May last, and 'tis expected the Roof will be on next Month. It is a neat Brick Building, 150 Feet by 46, four Stories high, with a Projection in the Middle of 10 Feet on each side, containing an Area of 63 Feet by 30, for a Hall, and other public Uses. The Building will accomodate upwards of a Hundred Students. Its Situation is exceedingly pleasant and healthy, being on the Summit of a Hill, the Ascent easy and gradual, commanding an extensive Prospect of Hills, Dales, Plains, Woods, Water, Island, &c.—*Who hath despised the Day of small Things?*

The record is of interest also for its brief description of the first hall, which was completed in 1770. Until 1772, it housed only the students of the college. On July 10th of that year, President Manning announced that "the Latin School is now removed and set up in the College Edifice." The "Grammer School Boys" were then permitted to "board in Commons . . . with the Students."⁴

Part of the Log of Sloop Ranger of Rhode Island, 1744

FROM ORIGINAL IN THE LIBRARY OF PAUL C. NICHOLSON

Concluded

Sundy: May 6:1744 Sp Rainger F: Rhoad Island

This Last twenty four hours Began with a Small Brease of wind at about S S E and Since has Got Round to S W or there abouts and Blows a Taught Gail at 4 this morning Jybd main Sail and Rigged SquarSail upon the other Side about Seven Saw a Vessel Baring about N E by N from me but at

⁴*Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News Letter*, July 30, 1772. Item dated "Providence, July 10, 1772."

Such a Distance Could not Deserne What Sort of a Vessel
Shee Was no further than Shee was a TopSail Vessel Stand-
ing to the Westward and was Soone out of Sight

Course	N N E	
Distance Sailed		108 m
Diff: of Lattd-		099 m
Departure		41 m
Diff: of Longd		50 m
Longtd: by Judgmtt	De	71:28 m
Zenth: Distance	}	De 16:15 m
Suns Declinati		19:27 m
Lattd: by obser:	De	m
		35:42

Mund: May 7:1744 Sp Rainger: F Rhoad Island

This Last twenty four hours Began with a fine Gail of wind
at S W by S at 6 Single Reaft main Sail and Took Bonnet
of the SquareSail Last knight abundance of Lightning this
morning wind Shifted to North and N N E at Nine Put about
Since Wind has Got to East or there abouts and weather
Looks Very Dirty and Wind Blows Very hard and as Mont-
ross as Even I See if not the Worst upon Some accounts for
its Not only Very Large but Runs all in heaps ocationed by
a Strong Currant for Judge we are in the Very hart of the
Gulf Stream

Course	N by E $\frac{1}{2}$ E	
Distance Sailed		136 m
Diff: of Lattd-		130 m
Departure		39 m
Diff: of Longd		50 m
Longd: by Judgmtt	De	70:38 m
Zen Distan	}	De 00:00
Suns Declina		- 19:40 m
	De	
Lattd: by Judgmtt		37:52 m
moons: first quarter		

Tuesd: May 8: 1744 Sp Rainger F. Rhoad Island

This Last twenty four hours Began with a fresh Gail of wind at East and Weather Very Durty Like and about 4 aClock Shifted to N E and Came on to Blow Very hard I handed all Sail and Lay by and a Very hard Gail of Wind indeed and Since has Got to North and Cleared up Very Pleasent but Very Cold indeed for the time of year fear they have a Very Backward Spring Course while Brought two N N W and Since have drifted about S W but have Got Considerable to the Northward and Conclud it must be a Violent Currant in the Gulf Stream that has Carryed and Suppose to the Eastward Liguire but Shall allow the Same Longd as yesterday

Zenith Distance	}	De 18-25
Suns Declination		19-53 m
Lattd: by obser		De 38:58 m
		De
Longtd: by Judgmtt		70:38 m

Wednesd: May 9:1744: Sp Rainger F: Rhoad Island

This Last twenty four hours Pleasent Weather first part a fresh Gail of wind at about North about 3 in the afternoon Wind abated and made Sail and Lay W N W and about $\frac{1}{2}$ and hour by Sun Saw a Vessel about S S W from me Distance about 4 Leagues a Top Sail Vessel Judge her to be and Take her to be Standing to the Southward and betwene 8 & 12 Last night Dyed awy Calm but about 12 Came up a Pretty Gail at about W by S and made Sail this morning Dyed away Calm again and halled to the Eastward and we put about and Lay N by W but wind Very Small to Day a Little after 12 Spoke with a Sloop belonging to Boston Thomas Butler master a Whale Sloop had bene out of the Viniard two Days and he judges Block Island to Bare N by E from him but I Believe it is more to the Eastward at the Same time when Spoke with this Butler had a Sloop in Sight about W N W from me he Tels me They are Whale men he believes and tis Very Likely our water is Very much Coulered and have Passed by Considerable of Rock weed to Day and other Trash and aboun-

dance of Shoar Birds are about us a Small Brease of wind now would carry us to our Desired port if Fair and am in Great hopes Shall have it in a Short time for at Preasent it is Very Near a Calm and weath Exceeding Pleasent and am in hopes of a Southerly wind in a Very Little time to Day found one of our Cask of Rum all out to a Very Small Matter and am fearfull Shall have a Vassst Deal of Damage in our hole this Last twenty four hours have Gone but Little to the Northward but have Gone Considerable Westward

Course	N W by W
Distan Sailed	24 m
Diff: of Latt	13 m
Departure	20 m
Diff: of Longtd	25 m
Longtd: by Judgmtt	De 71:03 m
Zen. Distance	De 18:25
Suns Declinat	20:06 m
	De m
Lattd: by obser:	38:31

Thirsd: May 10;1744 Sp Rainger F. Rhode Island

This Last twenty four hours Pleasent weather from 12 while 8 at night Very Little Wind Some part quite Calm and at 8 in the Evining Came up a Small Brease at S W and Since has Come on a fine Gail to Day at 12 Spoke with a Sloop Belonging to Cape Codd had Bene out about 3 Weeks and had meet with Good Suckcess had Gott 4 PalmySettes and was Bound in and am in Great hopes that we and Shee may Gett in to morrow if nothing of no misfortune happens to us and at Preasent it Looks Very Promising that way

Course N by W	
Distance Sailed	68 m
Diff: of Latt	67 m
Departure	13 m
Diff: of Longtd	17 m
Longtd: by Judgment	De 71:20 m
Zenith Distance	De 19:20
Suns Declination	20:18 m

Lattd: by obser

De: m
39:38

Fryd: May 11 :1744 Sloop Rainger F. Rhode Isl

This Last twenty four hours Pleasent weather and a fine Gail of Wind while 6 in the afternoon and then Shifted from S W to N W and Blowed Very fresh for a Little time handed SquareSail and Squall was Sune over and not Long but the wind Shifted to North and Blowed Very hard for a Little time and Shifted Back again and Whiffled Back and forth a Small time and Dyed and quite Calm and So Remaind all Night and while about 8 this morning a Small Brease of wind came up at about South and by 12 had a Pretty Little Gail and am in Great hopes Shall have more in a short time have now about 37 fathom of Water owl and Some Sand Course while Fell Calm N by W and Since made Sail this morning N N W: Course made out by Judgmtt N by W $\frac{1}{4}$ W

D. Sailed	}	59 m	}	Zen. Dist	}	De 20:5
Diff : of Lattd:	}	57 m	}	Sun: Decl	}	20:38 m
Depart	}	14 m	}	Lattd.		
Diff: of Lon	}	17 m	}	by obser		De 40:35 m

m

Longd: by Judgmt De 71:37 m

De m

Lattd: by obser 40-35

	Gallns
Clove	9.
Doctr Stevens	9.1/4
Do	8.1/2
orange	8.3/4
annis	9.1/2
Tansey	9.1/3

Gallns: 54 3 quarts

1746

Nasaw Newprovidence June 28th

Disburts:

for the Sloop Endeavour To Negro Hire to the Salt ponds

	p/8	Royals
13 Days at 4 Royals p Day.....	13.....	0..... 0
To Pilotage in & out.....	4.....	4..... 0
To Do the Salt Ponds.....	16.....	0.....
To the Custom ftes.....	5.....	4.....
To 10½ Dozen pine apples.....	13.....	1.....
To 46 Salt Baggs the Hire.....	8.....	5.....

To my Tavern Expenses in providence

	p 8/8	Royals
Paid to mstrs Rowland.....	4.....	3.....
Washing t.....	0.....	7.....
Paid Mr.: Sears.....	10.....	0.....
Paid for Limes.....	14.....	2.....
Paid for Limes.....	12.....	7..... 1
Paid for Limes & Pines.....	15.....	0.....
Paid Paid for Naills.....	0.....	6.....
Paid the Barber.....		3.....
Paid for Stockings.....		9..... 6
Paid for Limes.....		10..... 0

Nasaw Newprovidence June 28th 1746

Recd: of Mr: Walter Gould in Cash

	p 8/8	Roy
To Cash.....	96.....	7..... ½
To Do.....	40.....	0.....
To Do.....	4.....	0..... ½
To Do for Limes & pine aples }.....	3 :.....	1 :.....
Sent home.....		
To Cash.....	42.....	2 :.....
To Do.....	30.....	4½.....
To Do.....	5.....	0.....
Royals		
To 12½ Corn at 4 Bushels.....	6.....	2..... 0
To Caggs of oysters at 6 Royals pr Cag.....	1.....	4..... 0
To 10 bb: of Flower at 5 p 8/8 pr bb.....	50.....	0..... 0

Lucia in Jamaica Feb 12: 1744

Sent the of my Cask to filled at Mr. Beers
and Febr:15th finished Graving my Vessell

Mr Jonathan Nichols

Lucia Jamaica Febr:15:1744/5

opened abb: of Beaf.....

5 Day opened a Tearse of Bread

Fryday march the 8 opened a Barll. Beaf

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 Prof. Edmund B. Delabarre
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 Mr. Henry C. Dexter
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 Hon. William W. Douglas
 Mrs. Louis W. Downes
 Mr. Robert T. Downs
 Mr. Charles L. Drown
 Mr. Wilfred I. Duphiney
 Miss Margaret L. Dwight
 Mr. H. Anthony Dyer
 Mr. William Allan Dyer
 Mr. Charles G. Easton
 Mr. Frederick W. Easton
 Mr. Alfred U. Eddy
 Mr. Cyrus T. Eddy
 Miss Isabel Eddy
 Mr. William Holden Eddy
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 Miss Edith Edwards
 Mr. Walter Angell Edwards
 Mr. James Elgar
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 Mr. Frank W. Emerson
 Mr. Ralph C. Estes
 Mr. William Wood Estes
 Rev. William H. P. Faunce
 Mr. Henry A. Fifield
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 Mme. Annita Gaburri
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 Mr. Preston H. Gardner
 Mr. Rathbone Gardner
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 Mr. Theodore Francis Green
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 Mr. John Henshaw
 Mr. Robert W. Herrick
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 Mr. Frank L. Hinckley
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 Mr. William L. Hodgman
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 Mr. Walter E. Horton
 Mr. E. Harris Howard, Jr.
 Mr. Frederic W. Howe
 Mr. M. A. DeWolfe Howe
 Mr. Wallis E. Howe
 Mr. Horatio A. Hunt
 Mr. S. Foster Hunt
 Mrs. Duncan Hunter
 Mr. Louis H. C. Huntoon
 Mr. George Hurley
 Mr. James H. Hurley
 Mr. Richard A. Hurley
 Mr. James Hazen Hyde
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 Mr. Robert L. Knight
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 Mr. Russell W. Knight
 Mrs. Webster Knight
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 Mr. John Krawczuk
 Mr. George R. Lawton
 Mr. Thomas Z. Lee
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 Miss Grace F. Leonard
 Miss Anna L. Lestrade
 Mr. George H. Lewis
 Mr. John B. Lewis
 Mr. Joseph W. Lewis
 Mr. Ferdinand A. Lincoln
 Mrs. Charles Warren Lippitt
 Mr. Charles Warren Lippitt
 Mrs. Frances Pomeroy Lippitt
 Mr. Gorton T. Lippitt
 Hon. Henry F. Lippitt
 Mr. Arthur B. Lisle
 Mrs. Arthur B. Lisle
 Mr. Charles W. Littlefield
 Mr. Ivory Littlefield
 Mr. Nathan W. Littlefield
 Rev. Augustus M. Lord
 Mr. Albert E. Lownes
 Mr. Harold C. Lyman
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 Mr. Archibald C. Matteson
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 Mr. Houghton P. Metcalf
 Mrs. I. Harris Metcalf
 Hon. Jesse H. Metcalf
 Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf
 Mr. Stephen O. Metcalf
 Lt. Col. Willis C. Metcalf
 Mr. William Davis Miller
 Mrs. William Davis Miller
 Mr. George L. Miner
 Miss Lilian B. Miner
 Hon. Louis Monast
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 Mr. Addison P. Munroe
 Mr. Walter M. Murdie
 Mr. George E. Nerney
 Mr. Barnes Newberry
 Mr. George H. Newhall
 Mr. Louis C. Newman
 Miss Eliza Taft Newton
 Mr. Paul C. Nicholson
 Mr. Samuel M. Nicholson
 Ira Hart Noyes, M.D.
 Miss Mary Olcott
 Mrs. Frank F. Olney
 Mr. Erling C. Ostby
 Mr. Harald W. Ostby
 Mr. Raymond E. Ostby
 Mr. Harry C. Owen
 Mr. G. Richmond Parsons
 H. G. Partridge, M.D.

Mr. Frederick S. Peck
 Mrs. Frederick S. Peck
 Mr. Stephen I. Peck
 Mr. Augustus R. Peirce
 Mr. George E. Peirce
 Mrs. George E. Peirce
 Mr. John B. P. Peirce
 Mr. Thomas A. Peirce
 Mr. Charles M. Perry
 Mr. Howard B. Perry
 Rt. Rev. James DeWolf Perry
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 John M. Peters, M.D.
 Mr. Albert N. Peterson
 Mr. Arthur L. Philbrick
 Mr. Charles H. Philbrick
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 Mr. B. Thomas Potter
 Mrs. Dexter B. Potter
 Mrs. Thomas I. Hare Powell
 Mr. Howard W. Preston
 Mrs. Howard W. Preston
 Miss Evelyn M. Purdy
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 Mrs. George R. Ramsbottom
 Mr. Walter E. Ranger
 Mrs. Henry G. Raps
 Hon. Elmer J. Rathbun
 Mrs. Irving E. Raymond
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 Rhode Island State College
 Mr. Herbert A. Rice
 Mr. Herbert W. Rice
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Mr. Nathaniel W. Smith	Mr. D. Berkeley Updike
R. Morton Smith, M.D.	Mr. William A. Viall
Mr. Walter B. Smith	Hon. Walter B. Vincent
Mrs. Whitney Smith	Mrs. Arthur M. Walker
Mr. Sylvester M. Snow	Mr. A. Tingley Wall
Mr. Robert L. Spencer	Mrs. Lewis A. Waterman
Mr. Charles R. Stark	Prof. Arthur E. Watson
Mrs. James G. Staton	Mr. Byron S. Watson
Hon. Charles F. Stearns	Mr. Edward L. Watson
Mrs. Charles J. Steedman	Mr. John J. Watson
Mr. Thomas E. Steere	Mrs. William B. Weeden
Mr. Oscar F. Stetson	Mr. Richard Ward Greene Welling
Mr. Frederick A. Stevens	Mr. Herbert J. Wells
Miss Maud Lyman Stevens	Mr. John H. Wells
Mr. Edward Clinton Stiness	Mr. Thomas H. West, Jr.
Mr. Henry Y. Stites	Mrs. Elizabeth Nicholson White
Mr. Edward A. Stockwell	Mr. Willis H. White
Mr. George A. Stone	Mrs. Gerald Whitman
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Mr. H. Nelson Street	Mr. Frank J. Wilder
Mr. John F. Street	Mrs. Elizabeth K. Wilkinson
Mr. Rush Sturges	W. Fred Williams, M.D.
Hon. Arthur P. Sumner	Miss Amey L. Willson
Mr. Frank H. Swan	Mr. William A. Wing
Mrs. Gardner T. Swarts	Mr. Wilson G. Wing
Hon. John W. Sweeney	Mrs. George P. Winship
Mr. Robert W. Taft	Mr. John Carter Brown Woods
Mr. Royal C. Taft	Mr. Carlos G. Wright
Mrs. Albert H. Tetlow	Mr. Nathan M. Wright
Mr. Charles F. Thatcher	Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth

Notes

The Society has recently obtained a hitherto unknown Rhode Island broadside entitled "In Council of War, January 4, 1778", and signed R. J. Helme, Clerk. It is the recruiting instructions issued to recruiting officers.

A silver spoon made by Samuel Cranston of Newport, silver-smith and for many years Governor of Rhode Island, is illustrated on page 472 of the May issue of *Antiques*.

The Charles A. Calder Memorial Collection of Rhode Island Pewter, mentioned in the last issue of the Collections and described in detail in the issues of July 1924 and April 1926, is now on exhibition in the Society's portrait gallery where it has been the centre of much interest.

The April issue of the *Bulletin* of the Newport Historical Society contains items of Rhode Island interest extracted from Boston newspapers, which were published from 1704 to 1720.

Flag Carried in Gaspee Celebration, 1826

The *Rhode Island American and Providence Gazette* for July 4, 1826, contains the following item:

"The surviving captors of the Gaspee are now but four . . . Colonel Ephraim Bowen of Pawtuxet, Capt. Benjamin Page of Portsmouth, Col. John Mawney of Cranston and Capt. Turpin Smith of this town . . . They have a conspicuous place assigned them in the procession on this day, and a Banner, designed with great fecility by Mr. Samuel J. Bower, executed in his best style and presented by him to the committee of arrangements, will wave from their Barouche. The banner, on one side, has a view of the blazing Gaspee, with a boat rowing from her, and the names of the four surviving captors—the other, has the arms and motto of the State."



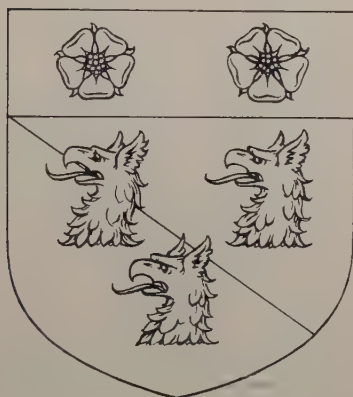
(reverse)

THE FLAG CARRIED IN THE GASPEE CELEBRATION OF 1826.
Now in the Society's Museum.

Colonial Heraldry

(Continued from vol. XXII, page 64)

BAILEY



A curious coat of arms appears upon the gravestones of Susannah Bailey, 1723, and her husband, Stephen Bailey, 1724. The shield is heart-shaped¹ and is very crudely cut. Apparently the design is intended for "Party per bend, three griffin's heads couped², on a chief two roses." The chief may be divided in pale, but this line may be merely ornamental, for it widens into a fleur-de-lis just before it touches the base line of the chief. The crest is "A griffin segreant," (*Her. Jour.* III:63).

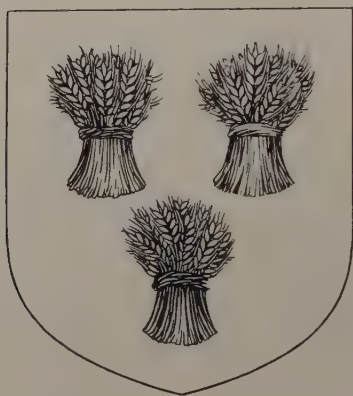
ROYALL

In 1747 Isaac Royall, Esq. of Bristol, R. I. gave to St. Michael's Church a baptismal basin engraved with the Royall arms; "Azure three garbs—," with the crest a demi-lion

¹A shield of similar shape appears on a seal used in 1721 (*Her. Jour.* II:184).

²On the gravestone the arrangement is 2, 1, and the heads are placed "bend-sinister-wise," probably artistic license.

holding in his paws a garb and with motto PECTORE PURO.¹ The Royall arms, ". . . Three garbs—," also appear on some silver presented by Isaac Royall to the Church of Christ in Medford, Massachusetts.²



The same arms, crest, and motto appear on the bookplate of Isaac Royall, Esqr. of Antigua, as illustrated in *The Curio* 1887, p. 15. The arms "three garbs"³ appear on the gravestone erected in Dorchester in memory of William Royall who died in 1724. Isaac Royal of Bristol was son of Isaac of Antigua and grandson of William who was buried in Dorchester.

Bolton in his *American Armory* suggests that the garbs were probably *or*. Neither Burke nor Papworth throws any light on this subject.

ARNOLD

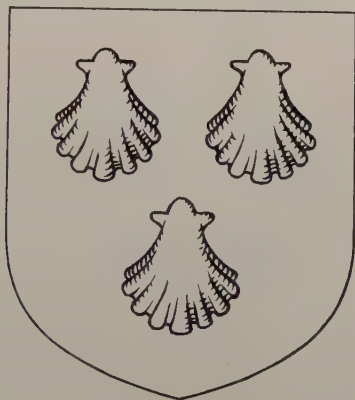
In examining some old papers in the Newport Historical Society, I recently discovered an Arnold armorial seal, which antedates the Arnold coat of arms that was cut on the grave-

¹E. A. Jones' *The Old Silver of America Churches*, p. 97.

²*Idem* 275.

³*Heraldic Journal* I, 12.

stone¹ of Benedict Arnold in 1727. This seal was used by Benedict Arnold and his wife, Mary, and by Josiah Arnold and his wife, Sarah, on a document dated Oct. 22, 1686. The arms are "Three escallops." This is the earliest use of these



Arnold arms yet found in America and it seems probable that the mullet was added to the arms on the gravestone for difference. The use of this obscure Arnold coat as early as 1686 seems to indicate inheritance and definitely to connect the Arnolds of Newport with the Arnolds of Buckinghamshire.

WILLIAMS

Roger Williams of Providence used an armorial seal on letters written in 1637 and 1638, now preserved at the Massachusetts Historical Society. These letters are printed in *M. H. S. C.* 4, VI, 231, 242, 248, 252, 254 and 266, and the seal illustrated on plate 3. (Cf. *R. I. H. S. C.* XV:108). The arms appear as "A lion rampant within an orle of nine partly obliterated charges." It has been suggested that these arms

¹*R. I. H. S. Col.*, v. 20, p. 126.

were intended for those of the family of Williams of Llangibby, described by Burke as "Gyronny of 8 erm. and sa, a lion ramp. or," but illustrated in his "*Extinct Baronetages*" without the ermine spots, and given by Berry as "Gyronny of eight ermines and erminois a lion rampant or." The gyronny lines are not discernable in the present indistinct condition of the



seal impressions. It might be noted here that the "pale" line in the Hutchinson seal impression of 1667 also is not discernable. (Cf. *Her. Jour.* II:183). It has been suggested that the charges of the orle were intended for ermine spots, but were so poorly executed that they look more like inverted ermine spots or like pheons. *Ermines* might be described as the "reverse of ermine," and the engraver may have mistaken "reversed" for "inverted," and cut the erminois spots the same as the ermines spots.

On a small shield an ermine field with a rampant lion sometimes appears like an orle of ermine, as for instance on the canton of the shield of St. John's College, Oxford, in a publication issued by John Chaundy, herald painter of Oxford, about the beginning of the present century.

The descent of Roger Williams of Providence from Roger Williams of Llangibby has not been proven.

The *Heraldic Journal* (III:175), and most later heraldic writers, as well as Dr. Bowditch, who recently made a special examination of the seal, pronounce the charges as "pheons." On the actual seal the tip of the tail of the lion turns towards his back, not away from it, as in the illustration in the *Heraldic Journal*.

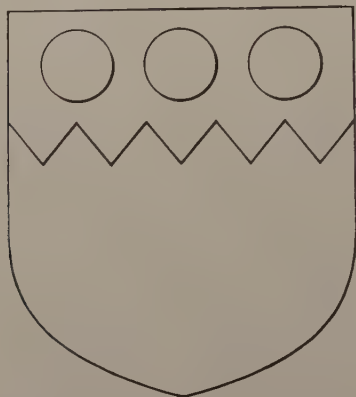
Papworth lists only one coat as a lion rampant within an orle of pheons, which he gives as "Or a lion rampant gules within an orle of pheons sable" for Roppe, and adds the abbreviation "V¹," which signifies "Coats, incorrectly given in the printed Glover's *Ordinary*." Papworth, quoting from Glover's *Ordinary* manuscript, gives "Or a lion rampant gules between eight pheons sable" for Rope. He also gives other similar Rope or Roope arms with various tinctures and with the lion between seven, eight and twelve pheons, respectively. The *Visitation of Devon*, 1620, gives Roope as "Argent, a lion rampant gules within an orle of nine pheons azure," which is the number in the orle on Williams' seal. Papworth gives "Argent a lion rampant per fess gules and vert between seven pheons azure" for Roope of Horswell, Devonshire, and quotes the *Visitation of Devon*, but the item does not appear in the *Visitation* as printed by the Harleian Society. Papworth adds "the heiress m. Ilbert. *Roope*, Bristol, confirmed to Harris 1771" What does this mean? Does it mean that these Roope arms were carried through the marriage of a Roope heiress with Ilbert into the Ilbert family and hence presumably through another heiress to the Harris family, and in 1771 confirmed to Harris?

Burke states, in regard to this, that "the heiress Frances, only child of William Roope, Esq. of Horwell, m. William Ilbert, Esq. of Bowringsleigh," and for the same arms also gives "Roope (Bristol) exemplified 1771."

It is possible that there was a Williams family that used arms "A lion rampart within an orle of pheons," and that these arms were not recorded in any of the printed English

heraldic works, just as the Sweet, Hoyle, Harris, Dyre, Tew, Bailey and Ellery arms were not recorded until the time of the *Heraldic Journal* or later.

LATHAM



In 1705 Walter Clarke sealed a deed, now in the Newport Historical Society library, with a seal bearing the arms of his maternal grandfather, Lewis Latham, falconer to King Charles I. The arms are "On a chief indented three roundles," with a blurred crest, which Tracy in *Historic Strain of Blood in America* blazons as "A demi eagle displayed." Burke gives several Latham and Lathom arms, as "Or on a chief azure three plates," and various eagle crests.

PAINE

Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay was erected into a manor under the title of Sophy Manor in 1672, and was conferred by Governor Lovelace of New York upon John Paine. This John Paine on October 18, 1659, used an armorial seal: "On a fesse engrailed between three martlets as many mascles, all within a border" with "a wolf's head erased" for a crest, on a document now in the Massachusetts Archives (45, 199).

These arms are evidently those ascribed by Burke to the Paynes of Market Bosworth in Leicestershire and Paine in Suffolk, viz: "Argent on a fesse engrailed gules between three martlets sable as many masles or, all within a border engrailed of the second bezanté." The crest is given as "A wolf's head erased azure charged with five bezants saltireways."

John Paine, Proprietor and Governor of Sophy Manor, was son of William Paine of Watertown and Ipswich. Albert W. Paine, in the *Paine Genealogy, Ipswich Branch*, 1881, claims that these Paines were descended from the Paines of Suffolk, who were descended from the Paynes of Market Bosworth.



A similar armorial seal was used by William Paine (father of John) as early as 1657, (*Mass. H. S. C. 4*, VII, pl. VIII). The illustrations in the *Paine Genealogy* (p. 92) and in the *M. H. S. C.* do not show the engrailed edges of either border or fesse, or the bezants on the border, but the drawing in the *Heraldic Journal* (III:189) shows the bezants, although they do not appear on the seal itself.

CLARKE

The armorial seal used by John Clarke on his will, dated 1676, which is preserved at the Newport Historical Society,

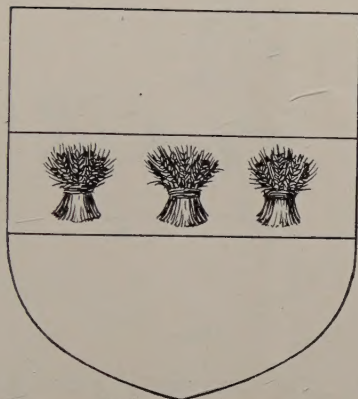
is "A chevron between three leopard's faces," (*R. I. H. S. C.* XV:103). This seal, which is used twice on John Clarke's will, is quite different from a seal bearing somewhat similar arms, which was used by Richard Smith. On the Smith seal, the leopard's faces are what might be called smooth-faced, while on the Clarke seal they have a super-abundance of whiskers, eyebrows and projecting hair generally. Burke gives "Argent,



a chevron between three griffin's heads erased sable, on a chief of the last three mascles of the first" for the Clarke family of Kettleston, Suffolk. The chief may well have been an addition for difference for that branch of the Clarke family of Suffolk, which settled at Kettleston. In that case the parent arms of the older family of Clarkes of Suffolk would have been "Argent, a chevron between three griffin's heads erased sable," and it has been suggested that the "faces" or "heads affrontée" of the seal may have been an engraver's error for "heads," or may be a change for difference. John Clarke's ancestry can be traced to the family of Clarkes of Westhorpe in Suffolk (*The Clarke Families of Rhode Island*, by G. A. Morrison, Jr.), and this family may have differenced the coat by turning the heads.

This John Clarke seal was later used by Nicholas Carr, Warden of Jamestown, on a warrant dated March 18, 1727-8, which is now in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society, (*R. I. H. S. Anthony Papers*, p. 32).

VERNON



The Vernon coat of arms appears on the gravestone of Samuel Vernon who died in 1737 and on the gravestone of his wife Elizabeth who died in 1721-2. The gravestones are in the Island Cemetery at Newport, R. I.¹ These arms were previously used by Daniel Vernon on a seal ring "set with a Cornelian stone cut with Three Wheat Sheaves which he said was the arms of his Family and sent from England to him." A reproduction of the ring is shown in the *N. E. H. & G. Register* wherein the arms are given as "Or on a fess azure three garbs." The arms and crest are those of the English family of Vernons: "Or on a fess azure three garbs of the field" with the crest "A demi-Ceres affrontée proper vested vert holding three ears of wheat over her left shoulder or, and in her right hand a sickle proper, handle or."

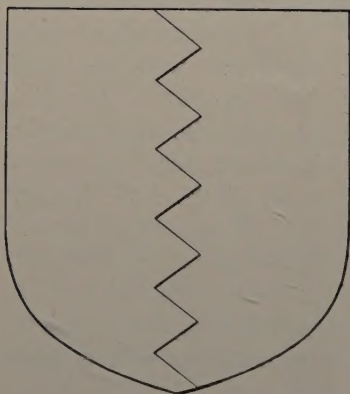
UNIDENTIFIED COATS

On June 11, 1746 William Greene, Governor of Rhode Island, used an armorial seal at the head of a warrant issued to Peleg Brown, Sheriff of Newport County, to convene the

¹N. E. H. & G. Register 33 p. 312.



General Assembly. The arms are "A horse passant," no colors shown, and the crest "A demi-horse rampant." Papworth gives no clue to these arms.



Ebenezer Moone of Newport in 1675 used an armorial seal, "Per pale indented argent and azure," with the crest. "Three ostrich feathers on a helmet," (*R. I. H. M.* V:67).

Another armorial seal, used in the later colonial period, is that used by Peleg Dexter in the presence of James Angell and John Farnum on a document dated March 12, 1770, (*R. I. H. S. Deeds*, III :39). The device is three lambs (or sheep) passant.

